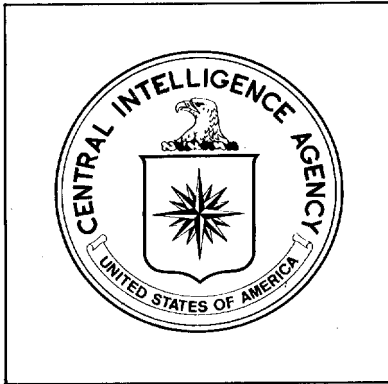


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WESTERN EUROPE — CANADA — INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the Western Europe Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

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Cyprus Talks to Open With Greek Strategy in Dispute

The last hurdle to reopening the Cyprus intercommunal talks in Vienna on April 28 appears to have been cleared, although sharp differences have arisen over the Greek Cypriot negotiating strategy.

Rauf Denktash, leader of the Turkish Cypriot sector, announced today that agreement had finally been reached on the role of the UN Secretary General and the venue of the talks. Denktash also announced that he would act as the Turkish Cypriot negotiator in at least the first sessions. Denktash said that Secretary General Waldheim would play no substantive role in the talks, although he could be of assistance on subjects mutually agreed on by the negotiators.

The talks are reportedly scheduled to last only until May 2, providing very little time to reach agreement on the sensitive issues to be discussed. The talks may continue at a lower level of representation after May 2, with Denktash and possibly Clerides returning home, or the talks themselves could be transferred back to Nicosia.

Clerides' role as the negotiator for the Greek Cypriots has been clouded in the past week, as a result of an apparent dispute with Archbishop Makarios over negotiating strategy. Clerides has come under sharp attack from pro-Makarios press and political groups as a result of a speech on April 1 in which he set out the realities of the Cypriot situation as he saw them.

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Clerides argued that a bizonal federation as desired by the Turks was probably the solution that would provide the Greek Cypriots with the best opportunity of regaining some of their lost territory and of achieving strong guarantees for the future. He also took issue with the concept of a "long-term struggle," a phrase that Makarios has used. Clerides said that only made sense if the Greek side expected eventually to resort to armed conflict to recoup its losses. Otherwise, a "long-term struggle" would only result in freezing the Turkish position.

25X1C These statements drew immediate and heavy fire from pro-Makarios elements, but Clerides has not backed down and has repeated the ideas in subsequent speeches. [REDACTED] that Makarios claims he is not behind the press attacks on Clerides, but is delighted with them and will make no effort to stop them. [REDACTED] that Makarios views his current differences with Clerides as most serious and that while Makarios will make a show of restraint and tact, his ultimate goal is to force Clerides to resign as Greek Cypriot negotiator.

25X1C There have, in fact, been several calls in the press for Clerides' resignation in recent days and even reports that he has already resigned. Press reports from Ankara claim Clerides has denied presenting his resignation.

Clerides, however, is not above using the threat to resign as a tactic, perhaps in an effort to gain reassurances of support that will tie Makarios, and possibly the Greek government, to the unpopular concessions Clerides will have to make to obtain a settlement. Reports have already surfaced that Greek Prime Minister Karamanlis has asked Clerides to stay on. (Secret No Foreign Dissem/Controlled Dissem)

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Dutch Socialists Debate NATO

The Dutch Labor Party--cornerstone of the present five-party coalition government--will debate the nation's membership in NATO at its congress on April 10-12. Party leaders will probably succeed in defending the government's defense policy against attacks from the party's sizable left-wing.

During the past week, Prime Minister den Uyl and Defense Minister Vredeling have stressed the vital role NATO plays in assuring security in Europe. At the congress, they hope to prevent the left-wing from passing resolutions that question the government's participation in the Alliance.

Such resolutions have been passed before. At the last congress in September 1973, the rank and file endorsed a proposal calling for a reevaluation of NATO membership if no progress were made toward democracy in Greece and Portugal. The left-wing's dissatisfaction with non-democratic regimes in the Alliance has now faded, but Party leaders are determined to put up a stiff fight should the left-wing propose a resolution making NATO membership conditional in some other way. Such a resolution would not be binding on party leaders or the government but could damage the party's relations with its more conservative coalition partners.

The left-wing may have more success in arguing for defense cuts. The Party's executive board has drafted a proposal that nuclear weapons be removed from Dutch soil unless the question of tactical nuclear weapons is

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included in the East-West force reduction talks. Dutch officials at the negotiations have in fact been pushing for the inclusion of such weapons for some time.

There will almost certainly be a discussion of the controversial question of replacing the Dutch Air Force's aging F-104 Starfighters. Last September, the party's 120-man senior advisory council recommended that no replacement be purchased and emphatically opposed a new American plane.

Defense Minister Vredeling, on the other hand, has stated that military obligations must be met. At last week's Consortium meeting, he signed a communique stating that from a technical standpoint the US F-16 has "undeniable advantages."

The confrontation between Vredeling and the left-wing may result in a resolution recommending the purchase of a cheaper, less versatile replacement aircraft. This decision, however, would not bind the den Uyl government which must consider the broader political ramifications. (Confidential)

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Debate on Continued EC Membership for
Britain Turns Nasty

Recent leaks of government and Labor Party documents and minutes are undermining efforts to maintain a facade of unity between pro- and anti-EC factions in the party during the campaign preceding the referendum on EC membership. The government hopes to hold the referendum on May 29 or June 5, earlier than expected, because it fears that a lengthy campaign, if heated, could alienate the voters.

Three "confidential" Labor Party documents published in a leading London newspaper over the weekend clearly reflected fundamental disagreement between pro- and anti-EC forces on the results of the renegotiation with the EC and on the desirability of continued British membership. More troubling to the Labor party and the government was an article describing two anti-EC cabinet members' threatened resignations and Prime Minister Wilson's threatened resignation and near walk-out from a cabinet meeting. Reportedly, only the intervention of Employment Secretary Foot, an anti-marketeer and apparent peacemaker, prevented Wilson's leaving.

The tone of the parliamentary debate this week on the government's recommendations for continued membership and the vote on the referendum bill will be key indicators of how acrimonious the pre-referendum campaign will be and how much support Labor members of parliament will give Wilson. The prime minister's guidelines for the conduct of

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government members during the campaign, to be announced this week, also are certain to rally anti-EC Labor members of parliament against the government. Wilson wants to prohibit anti-marketeers from opposing the government inside parliament and to limit their activities during the campaign. The press claimed that it was disagreement on this issue that triggered Wilson's near walk-out from the cabinet meeting and his threats to resign.

Despite the dissension within his party, there are some favorable omens for Wilson:

- the British press is speculating that Commons will approve the government's recommendations for continued membership by a substantial margin and will pass the referendum bill by a small margin;
- former prime minister Heath has urged Tories not to exploit the division within the Labor party for partisan advantage;
- Britain's third largest union is expected to break ranks with the Trades Union Congress, which is opposed to EC membership, by announcing its support for the renegotiated terms and continued membership. Other unions now may follow suit. This latest union action could mean that the special Labor Party conference on April 26, expected to come out against EC membership, may cast a closer vote--a boon for the pro-marketeers. (Confidential No Foreign Dissem)

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